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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent
Case No.: 56762US003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: ANDERSON, MARK T.
Application No.: 09/934361 Group Art Unit: 2874
Filed: August 21, 2001 Examiner: Unknown
Title: METHOD OF MANUFACTURE OF AN OPTICAL FIBER FUSION SPLICE
HAVING A CONTROLLED MODE FIELD DIAMETER EXPANSION MATCH

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:	
Date 8-7-03	Signed by: Tom Sanders

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, enclosed is a completed Form PTO-1449 citing references submitted for consideration by the Examiner. A copy of each cited reference is also enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to indicate that each reference has been considered.

Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

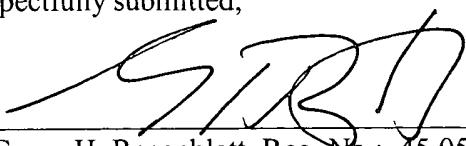
Under 37 CFR § 1.704(d), I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

A copy of the Search Report from a foreign counterpart application is enclosed.

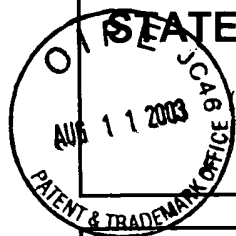
It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

8/7/03
Date

By: 
Gregg H. Rosenblatt, Reg. No.: 45,056
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Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO (modified)

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Use as many sheets if necessary)

Page 1 of 1

Application Number

09/934361

Filing Date

August 21, 2001

First Named Inventor

Anderson, Mark T.

Art Unit

2874

Examiner Name

Unknown

Attorney Case Number

56762US003

U.S. Patent Documents

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code (if known)			
	A1	US- 5,881,197	03-09-1999	Dong et al	
	A2	US-			
	A3	US-			
	A4	US-			
	A5	US-			
	A6	US-			
	A7	US-			
	A8	US-			
	A9	US-			

Foreign Patent Documents

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Translation (Check if yes)
		Ctry. Code	Number-Kind Code (if known)				
	B1	EP	1 094 346 A1	04-25-2001			
	B2	EP	1 174 741 A1	01-23-2002			
	B3	EP	1 202 090 A1	05-02-2002			
	B4						
	B5						
	B6						
	B7						

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published
	C1	M. HAMADA, et al, "Characteristics of Fusion Splice of Er ³⁺ -Doped Fiber for Optical Amplifier"; <i>Proceedings of the European Conference on Optical Communication (ECOC) Regular Papers</i> ; Berlin (27 Sept. 2002); Vol. 1, Conference 18; pp. 505-508
	C2	
	C3	

*Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.